



Public Health
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Frederick County Health Department

News Release

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2013 COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH KNOW THE FACTS – GET SCREENED

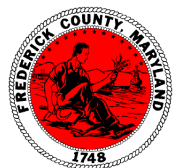
FREDERICK, MD -- Next to lung cancer, colorectal cancer claims the lives of more Maryland residents than any other form of cancer,” stated Beth Mowrey, Preventive Health Program Administrator at the Frederick County Health Department. The American Cancer Society estimates 2,420 new cases and 940 deaths will have occurred in Maryland in 2012 due to colorectal cancer. “It is important to remind the public that early screening is the most valuable form of protection against colorectal cancer,” continued Beth. “Despite the benefits of early screening, many people who should be screened for colorectal cancer never get the test(s) that can identify colon cancer in its early and curable stages. The public should know that colorectal cancer rates are going down because of early screening.”

Health care providers, particularly primary care providers, play an important role in reducing colorectal cancer by recommending screening to their patients and following up to ensure that their patients got screened. According to the Maryland Cancer Survey in 2008, of the people who reported that their providers recommended colorectal cancer screening, 88% got screened.

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One method of screening is colonoscopy. During colonoscopy, the doctor can remove polyps in the large intestine, also called adenomas, before they can turn into cancer. Before a colonoscopy, the colon must be clean so the doctor can see inside of the entire colon. To do this, patients are asked to take a laxative and go on a clear liquid diet before the test. Just before the test, the doctor gives medicine to relax the patient. After the test, the patient needs someone to drive the person home. Although this procedure is safe, all medical procedures involve some risk, risk that the doctor will explain.

According to Beth, the American Cancer Society recommends screening for people beginning at age 50 years. People with a personal or family history of colorectal cancer or adenomatous polyps and individuals with history of inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis, Crohn's colitis), and women with cancer of the ovary or endometrium need to start screening before they are 50.

For more information about colorectal cancer and the availability of colorectal cancer screening for qualifying individuals, please contact the Frederick County Health Department or you may also call the 24-hour line of the American Cancer Society's Cancer Information Specialist at 1-800-ACS-2345 (1-800-227-2345)

www.cancer.org/Cancer/ColorectalCancer.

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